

New Hampshire City and Town Clerk's Association  
Executive Board Minutes  
December 8, 2010

PRESENT: Sue McKinnon, Tricia Piecuch, Diane Trippett, Rita Eigenbrode, Linda Hardy, Debra Cornett, Stephanie Glidden, Kimberly Johnson, Debra Clark, Jeanette Vinton, Phyllis Thompson, Lori Holmes, Marjorie Roy, Wendy Drouin, and Jean Oleson

ABSENT: Patricia Waterman, Sandra Allard, and Kathleen Valliere

GUESTS: Lori Radke, Legislative Committee, and Nancy K. Johnson, Association lobbyist

President McKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Secretary's Report: President McKinnon requested that all minutes include the names of Executive Board members who were absent as well as those who attended. It was also requested that any corrections made to Draft minutes prior to an Executive Board meeting be highlighted for the Board members. A motion was made by Wendy Drouin and seconded by Debra Clark to accept the November 17, 2010, minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: It was moved by Tricia Piecuch, with several seconds, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 11/16/2010 – 12/7/2010. Motion passed unanimously. Rita Eigenbrode reported that she is waiting to receive paperwork from Kathy Seaver to complete the non-profit status paperwork.

Legislative Committee chairperson, Lori Radke, updated the Board on a meeting she recently attended at which the topic of discussion was small group / kennel dog licenses. State Veterinarian Stephen Crawford was among the attendees. Although no proposed legislation arose from the meeting, it was agreed that further in-depth discussion is needed, and that Town Clerks' input is crucial.

Nancy Johnson reported that 1400 – 1600 LSRs (proposed bills) have been filed with the Legislature this session. Senate members are still able to file proposals until December 10. Representative Patten and Mary Cooney have filed an LSR for the voluntary increase in town dog fees from \$1.00 to \$3.00. Senator Peter Bragdon will sponsor the bill recommending the increase in deposit amount for Town Clerks to \$1500 from \$500. Representative Major is re-filing the Motor Vehicle non-residency bill. Other items of potential interest are several changes proposed by a group called America Votes, and a proposal by Rep. Ken Hawkins regarding changes in the RSA governing filing for town offices, to clarify filing in person vs electronic filing and the \$1.00 fee for filing.

The Legislative Committee will be holding its first meeting of the year on January 13, 2011. Lori Radke will give details when they are available.

Old Business: The committee formed by President McKinnon to work with MV Director Bailey on a revised Standard Residency Form was to meet Wednesday, December 8, following the Executive Board meeting.

Plans are moving forward for the combined (back – to – back) NHTCA and NHCTCA Annual Conferences to be held at the Red Jacket in N. Conway, October 17 – 21, 2011.

Dave Scanlan and Anthony Stevens from the Secretary of State's Office addressed the Board regarding 3 LSRs that are being submitted; and copies were distributed for our perusal. Two of them are housekeeping in nature, and the third is being submitted through the Senate in response to discussions held at our annual Conference. Proposed language in RSA 659:77 regarding penalties for the Town Clerk if results are incorrect will add the word "intentionally".

Mr. Scanlan expects that Photo ID for registered voters will be a major topic of discussion in the Legislature, and predicts that a bill requiring photo ID would pass. In the past the Governor has not signed such legislation as there is the possibility of disenfranchising voters.

Regarding the Board's proposal to include a voter's date of birth on the Absentee Ballot Request, the Secretary of State's office does not want to make the information mandatory, but would be amenable to it being on the form.

Anthony Stevens informed us that the mailed and emailed questionnaires that Clerks have been receiving regarding absentee ballots are not mandatory to be completed.

Election modules are not currently in the works for School officials. School Moderators will be invited to future Moderator Workshops.

Steve Wurtz, Vital Records, announced the hiring of Bart Bronson as Business Administrator. It will be his main task to bring Vital Records from NHVRIN into the future. A meeting was held with local clerks and the Vital Records division to identify RFP issues regarding programming and procedure for new vital records software. The timeline laid out for the new application envisions the RFP being issued internally, released publicly the beginning of 2011. The new application should be available by late 2011 and operational in January, 2012.

Steve also informed the Board of 3 LSRs that he is aware of being filed(not by the Vital Records division) – 2 having to do with same gender marriage and the repeal thereof, and 1 regarding rolling back the certified record fee to \$12.00 from \$15.00.

MV Director Richard Bailey gave the Board a short update. They are expanding the VPN project to 6 municipalities as test sites. At the January 19, 2011 meeting to be held at DMV, we will receive a full demo. He announced that due to budget constraints, no further equipment will be issued from the State.

DMV is trying to move forward with getting more Municipal Agents on board as Boat Agents.

Director Bailey updated the Board on the realigned customer service model – Kelly Brudniak is now the head of Operations; she is replaced by Chris Ialuna in Registrations. Chris will attend the next meeting at DMV.

Director Bailey spoke regarding updating the Residency Form. He said that although it has been assumed, no statute states that the Town Clerk designates residency.

Regarding the new VOIP telephone system, on the previous day DMV received over 2300 calls. The average wait time was less than 3 minutes. A typical Friday, they would see 2500+ calls! Many calls are being answered at the MA Desk, over 250 per day!

Other: Linda Ekdahl of Durham recently passed away. She was a long-term Town Clerk/Tax Collector. She served the Association as Secretary and as President.

Congratulations to Mary Cote of Laconia on her recent marriage!

We wish a speedy recovery to Steve Wurtz who recently had hip surgery and also to Maryellen Pelletier who recently had shoulder surgery.

All Clerks are wished Happy Holidays!

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Jeanette Vinton, seconded by Tricia Piecuch, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hardy, Secretary